

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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P 040515Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5510

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS POEV MZ PO

SUBJ: FRELIMO PRESIDENT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM

1. SUMMARY. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LUSAKA JUNE 2, FRELIMO PRES. MACHEL HALD PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM IN WHICH HE ARGUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WILL NOT CONCERN PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE BUT RATHER MECHANISM FOR GIVING POWER TO PEOPLE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FRELIMO. PREVIOUSLY FRELIMO HAD INSISTED ON PORTUGUESE ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE BEFORE TALKS COULD BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FRELIMO PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL HELD NEWS CONFERENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM JUNE 2 JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LUSAKA WHERE HE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. MACHEL WAS ACCOMPANINED AT
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PRESS CONFERENCE BY VICE PRESIDENT MARCELINO DOS SANTOS,

INFORMATION SECRETARY JORGE REBELO, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE ALBERTO-JOAQUIM CHIPANDE.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MACHEL EXPLAINED THAT FRELIMO RECEIVED REQUEST FROM PORTUGAL ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ON MOZAMBIQUE. MACHEL SAID FRELIMO HAS NOW ACCEPTED THIS REQUEST. FOLLOWING NEWS CONFERENCE HE LEFT DAR ES SALAAM AT HEAD OF 11-MAN DELEGATION FOR LUSAKA. MACHEL DECLINED TO NAME OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION.

4. MACHEL MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN: "WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT PORTUGUESE WANT TO TELL FRELIMO. BUT WE WANT TO REAFFIRM HERE AND NOW THAT OUR POSITION CONCERNING THIS QUESTION IS VERY CLEAR. IN ORDER FOR US TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS NECESSARY FOR PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND, FIRST OF ALL, THAT IT MUST RECOGNIZE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE. WE ARE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE WITH PORTUGAL, BECAUSE INDEPENDENCE IS A RIGHT, AN INALIENABLE RIGHT, PORTUGAL MUST ENGAGE ITSELF IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRELIMO TO STUDY MECHANISM OF TRANSFER OF POWER TO MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FRELIMO."

5. WHEN ASKED IF PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR A MEETING WAS DELIVERED BY FRELIMO MEMBERS WHO ARRIVED IN DAR ES SALAAM LAST MONTH FROM LOURENCO MARQUES (DAR ES SALAAM 1544), MACHEL SAID, "NO. IT CAME DIRECT FROM THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT."

6. MACHEL COMMENTED THAT FRELIMO'S STRUGGLE BEGAN IN NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY WITH SMALL SCALE ATTACKS ON MILITARY AND POLICE POSTS. NOW MOVEMENT IS OPERATING MILITARILY DEEP IN HEART OF COUNTRY, WHILE CONTINUING ITS ACTIVITIES IN NORTH. HE CLAIMED VAST AREAS OF CABO DELGADO, NIASA AND TETE ARE UNDER FRELIMO CONTROL. IN MANICA E SOFALA THERE ARE FRELIMO CONTROLLED ZONES AS WELL. APRIL 25 COUP IN PORTUGAL, CARRIED OUT BY ARMED FORCES OFFICERS TIRED OF FIGHTING LOSING BATTLES IN AFRICA, FOLLOWED SERIES OF OUTSTANDING FRELIMO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACHIEVEMENTS IN MANICA E SOFALA, PARTICULARLY ATTACKS ON KEY RAIL AND ROAD LINKS.

7. IN ACCOMPANYING EDITORIAL, JUNE 3 GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS SAID "PORTUGUESE HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE AND REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM FRELIMO TO MEET THEM. THIS NEWS IS WELCOME BECUASE IT MANIFESTS DEFEAT OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THIS IS DEMON-

STRATION IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OF FUTILITY OF ALREADY
LOST FIGHT WHICH DECAYING PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM HAS
BEEN TRYING TO PUT UP IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR LAST TEN YEARS."
EDITORIAL ADDED: "IN ORDER FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE
CONDUCTED PROPERLY, PORTUGUESE MUST FIRST OF ALL RENOUNCE
THEIR OLD HANGOVERS AND RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF
MOZAMBIQUE TO INDEPENDENCE. FOR THIS RIGHT IS NOT
NEGOTIABLE. IT IS INALIENABLE. NEGOTIATIONS
MUST BE AIMED AT STUDYING MECHANISM FOR TRANSFER OF
POWER TO PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF
FRELIMO." END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. COMMENT: FACT THAT FRELIMO HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH
PORTUGUESE BEFORE ASSURANCE OF INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN
GIVEN PUBLICLY INDICATES SLIGHT RETREAT FROM FRELIMO'S
PREVIOUS POSITION THAT PORTUGAL FIRST MUST PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE
PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES.
MACHEL HAS TRIED TO GET AROUND THIS PROBLEM BY STATING
THAT FRELIMO IS MEETING WITH PORTUGUESE, NOT TO NEGOTIATE
PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE, BUT TO TALK ABOUT MECHANISM
OF TRANSFER OF POWER TO PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE UNDER
LEADERSHIP OF FRELIMO. PORTUGAL MAY, OF COURSE, HAVE
GIVEN PRIVATE ASSURANCES TO FRELIMO THAT INDEPENDENCE
WILL BE GIVEN TO MOZAMBIQUE.
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